

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/826,940 filed April 6, 2001 (which claims priority to Canadian Appln. No. 2,305,938 filed April 10, 2000); accordingly, the present application claims priority to both U.S. Appln. No. 09/826,940 and Canadian Appln. No. 2,305,938. The text added to the specification is meant to perfect Applicant's claim of priority.

Claims 1-20 were presented in the parent application and are canceled herewith without prejudice. New claims 21-71 have been added and are presented for prosecution on their merits.

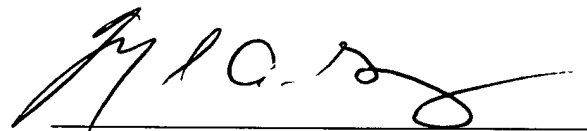
No new matter has been added by the above amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that the above amendments be entered before the application is published and examined.

Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment, examination of claims 21-71 and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Vladimir I. Gorokhovsky

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Mark A. Garzia, Esquire
Registration No. 35,517
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 021616
Law Offices of Mark A. Garzia
2058 Chichester Avenue
Boothwyn, PA 19061
Telephone: (610) 485-9400